

CPO Ministries

CHICAGOLAND PRISON OUTREACH

Chicagoland Prison Outreach P.O. Box 63 South Holland IL 60473 708 331-3301
www.cpoministries.org



FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

22 years ago – in February, 1987 – my late father-in-law and I sat in a chapel service in Division 6 of the Cook County Jail. We were there because my father-in-law heard an appeal for volunteers on Moody Radio from a chaplain at the jail. We were sitting on the bleachers of the multi-purpose room with 50+ inmates while a volunteer led a Bible study. This was my first ever experience of this kind. I was “hooked” immediately and signed on as a volunteer.

I began that month leading Bible studies every Wednesday. Soon thereafter, I added a Friday night chapel service to my schedule, and eventually also led a worship service one Sunday each month.

In 1994 God provided a group of people to help birth an organization called Chicagoland Prison Outreach to facilitate His call on my life to make a full time commitment to this ministry. As I look back, I see how God used volunteering at the jail to draw me to Himself in a way that I don't believe could have happened without it.

In this issue we are highlighting the impact the ministry of CPO has had in the lives of some of our volunteers. I am sure that you all will be blessed as much as I am to hear about how God uses us to help others, and radically transforms our lives at the same time.

Praise Him with me for His faithfulness and the faithfulness of our volunteers!

Dan Swets, Executive Director

P.S. The services our staff & volunteers provide are only possible because of your support!

INMATE FAMILIES ENJOY A BLESSED CHRISTMAS IN '08

This past December several local churches* and church groups* provided Christmas gifts, food and household items to 129 needy inmate families (including 455 children) and CPO staff and volunteers delivered them.

Whenever possible the delivery included a time of scripture, prayer and fellowship. Everyone involved – both givers and receivers – were so blessed to see the loving generosity of God demonstrated through this effort.



A huge thank you goes out to everyone who participated in any way. All praise and glory to God for the wonderful faithfulness of His people!

* Angels Academy at 1st RC of Lansing, Bethel CRC, Cornerstone PRC, Cottage Grove CRC, Faith Church, 1st CRC of South Holland, Grace RC, Oak Glen URC, Orland Park CRC, Peace Community Church, Thorn Creek RC.



“The experience of meeting and studying the Bible with the women at Cook County Prison has been such a tremendous blessing my life.”

I have been a volunteer with Chicagoland Prison Outreach for approximately 7 years. Every Wednesday we meet with 30 women at Cook County Prison for Bible Study and prayer. The experience has been such a tremendous blessing in my life.

I was raised in a Christian home, went to church twice on Sunday, went to Christian School, married a nice Christian man and repeated the process with my own children. I lived most of married life in a Christian community and most of the people I interacted with on a daily basis were just like me – Christian, church people. I have always been involved in Church programs, Sunday School, Bible School, Coffeebreak, etc. I found myself somewhat frustrated that I didn't seem to have opportunities to meet people who have never heard of Jesus Christ and present the gospel to them. So I was looking for a different type of ministry than what I had been involved in previously.

I heard a lot about CPO from members from my church who were involved in the ministry. I heard Dan speak about it at our church and wondered if they had a women's outreach program at Cook County Prison. I called Dan and found out that there was a group of women who had been going there every Wednesday so one evening I went along with them to see what it was all about. I have been hooked ever since.

The experience of meeting and studying the Bible with the women at Cook County Prison has been such a tremendous blessing my life. Being able to share the good news of the Bible with women who either never heard about Christ or who have fallen away has been an extremely uplifting experience. Even though we come from different ethnic backgrounds, different religious backgrounds and different economic backgrounds we are all one in Christ. When we are together in that room sharing the gospel we are no different – we are just a group of women praising God and learning how to live for Him. It sometimes feels like a little glimpse into heaven, where we have no divisions among us – we are one in spirit and love. We truly enjoy experiencing the Communion of the Saints each Wednesday night.

It is truly uplifting to have a woman come up to us after Bible Study and tell us that she only came because she had nothing else to do – but – she now wants to learn more about Jesus Christ and how to live for Him. We are able to see the Holy Spirit interacting in their lives and see them start to commit their lives to Him. They share prayer requests that their families would also come to know Jesus Christ as their Savior and lead lives dedicated to Him. We have had prison guards ask us to pray for them or request a Bible. So we see the Word of God spreading into other people's lives as well.

What does Chicagoland Prison Outreach mean to me? It has been such a joyful, uplifting, faith building experience and it is so hard to put into words how meaningful ministry this has been. But I am extremely grateful that God has provided this ministry and has allowed me to participate in it. We live in a country that we are allowed to preach openly and boldly the Word of God and that is what we are able to do every Wednesday night with the women at Cook County Prison. What an opportunity and blessing it has been. Praise be to God!!

Debbie Dykstra

Bike-A-Thon

June 20, 2009



Chicagoland Prison Outreach has planned a Bike-A-Thon. Mark your calendar for June 20, 2009. All ages, individuals, groups, and families are encouraged to ride. Prizes will be awarded and lunch provided. Watch your bulletin and/or our web site for further information regarding registration.

Groups may contact
Rich Van Til
708-363-2568

“It took God forty four years to weed out my old way of thinking. Eight years ago God replaced my old way of thinking with love, care, and a desire to help others.”

I was born and raised in a Christian home. When I turned 16 years old I began wandering away from Jesus. I loved my job more than I loved my family because the Christian life became boring. I wanted a new exciting life and Satan provided it. During that time I rejected Christ as my Lord and personal Savior.

God tried winning me back but I kept telling God “Leave me alone, I want nothing to do with you!” After God tried countless number of times to win me back, on December 3-1976 He allowed me to have an accident causing me to lose both of my hands. Some people say that must have been the worst day of my life! I say December 3-1976 was the best day of my life because that’s the date when I surrendered my life to Christ! This may sound strange but I’m thankful the Lord allowed the accident to happen because I’m now able to talk with brothers in prison about surrendering our lives to Christ.



Volunteers Package Christmas Gifts For Delivery To Families

After getting involved with the Prison Ministry I didn’t know what my role was because I didn’t know that much about the Bible. Satan tried convincing me that I didn’t belong there, not knowing enough about the Bible, and that bothered me. One night when I was talking with a brother I shared with him how I felt about being involved. This brother said “We have people coming here giving us Bible studies and leaving right away because they can’t relate to us on our level, but you can and that’s important to us.” I believe God was speaking to me through that brother letting me know what my role is in the Prison Ministry.

Before I became involved with Prison Ministry I was a very demanding, uncaring, hateful, and revengeful person. It took God forty four years to weed out my old way of thinking. Eight years ago God replaced my old way of thinking with love, care, and a desire to help others. This new way of thinking began growing eight years ago when I became involved with the Prison Ministry. The brothers thank me for being involved with them in their lives and I thank God for bringing these brothers into my life because we all help each other.



Youth Group Dressing Up CPO/Outreach Career Center

Before I became involved with the Prison Ministry I didn’t enjoy reading, but today I enjoy reading and responding back to our brothers in prison. These are a few miracles in how God has changed my life since I became involved with the Prison Ministry, Praise Him!

Dave Eylander

2008 Report on Income & Expenses

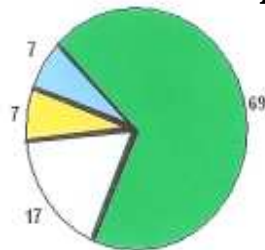
Income: \$446,011

Individual & Business Donations: \$305,879
 Church Support: \$75,742
 Foundations: \$33,300
 Education Funding: \$31,090

Expenses: \$441,249

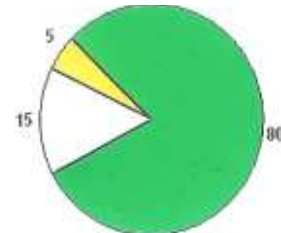
Ministry Programs: \$353,000
 Administration: \$66,187
 Fund Raising: \$22,062

Unaudited figures, 2008 audit not yet received.
 2009 budget: \$446,716



INCOME

- Individual & Business
- Church Support
- Foundations
- Educational Funding



EXPENSE

- Ministry
- Administration
- Fund Raising

2008 MEMORIAL GIFTS

IN MEMORY OF:

Mildred Eriks

Mr. & Mrs. Rich Conybear
 Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Dekker
 Mrs. Aleda Dekker
 Mr. Garrett Eriks

Mr. & Mrs. John Huisenga
 Mr. & Mrs. Dale A. Huizenga
 Mr. and Mrs. Richard Kuiper
 Mr. & Mrs. Lance Lucus
 Maaco Collision Repair
 J.H. Niehoff

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Pickup
 Rev. and Mrs. Mark Prestriedge
 Mr. & Mrs. Durk G. Reinsma
 Ms. Laura M. Rieley
 Mr. & Mrs. John J. Siniawski
 Mr. and Mrs. Dan Swets
 Mr. & Mrs. Keith R. Terpstra
 Mr. & Mrs. Cornelius G. VanTil

Morris Ivan Gandy Jr.

Ms. Roxanne V. Holmes

Dorothy Mis

Mr. Robert Heikema
 Mr. and Mrs. Randal Mis

Arn Stallinga

Mrs. Kathleen Clausing

IN HONOR OF:

Ted and Gwen DeJong

Mr. & Mrs. Gary W. Brouwers

Garrett Eriks

Ms. Laura M. Rieley

Mrs. Dot Plough

90th Birthday

Mr. and Mrs. Roger Triemstra

Don and Jean Spiekout

40th Wedding Anniversary

Mr. and Mrs. Roger Triemstra

Considering the Future?

We encourage you to consider CPO Ministries in your estate planning.

We work with the Barnabas Foundation in planned giving. Continue to support ministries you love after you are gone.

If you would be interested in continuing your legacy through planned estate giving contact:

CPO

cpoministries@sbcglobal.net

(708) 331-3301

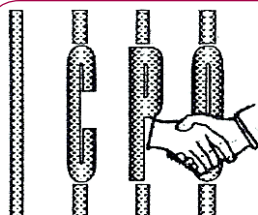
or the

Barnabas Foundation

www.barnabasfoundation.org

(888) 448-3040

for more information.



Chicagoland
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Board of Directors

George Kreykes Corrie Lenting

Dan Swets Jeff Van Drunen

Chuck Verhagen Jim Voss Craig Worries

If you would like more information on CPO or would like to be a CPO volunteer, please call, write or e-mail us at:

cpoministries@sbcglobal.net

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